

SENATOR ALDRICH has so far refused to say upon what date he will allow congress to adjourn.

IT seems, after all the republican pledges, that New Mexico and Arizona will have to wait for a democratic congress to give them the statehood they are entitled to.

HERE's what the republicans call revising the tariff downward: Of the 2,024 items of the Dingley tariff law, 1,370 were unchanged or increased by the Payne-Aldrich bill.

In putting Joss sticks upon the free list the republicans may have additional claims upon the vote of the Chinese, but in leaving razors off the free list they are liable to lose a large per cent of the vote of the colored men and mestizos.

With a member of congress, seeking re-election, asks for your support, request him to produce the Congressional Record and "show you" whether he voted in the interest of the people or with the Payne-Aldrich-Cannon outfit for the perpetuation of the trusts and plutocrats.

REPUBLICAN newspapers are going out of their mind to declare that there are no "insurgents" in Missouri. Will they please tell us why Gov. Hadley and Chairman Dickey—the republican bosses—and their following are so anxious to defeat Senator Warner? He has certainly stayed close to the stand-sitters and should expect his pay-off.

Mr. Taft's western trip was a decidedly "frosty" affair. Indiana was out of the question—too insuring, so to speak. Missouri didn't get off all exalted, and Ohio seemed so serene during his visit that the quiet must have been painful. People in this neck of woods haven't forgotten Mr. Taft's anti-election pledges and how soon they were ignored.

PRESIDENT TAFT accepted the invitation of the farmers to attend their convention at St. Louis, and they supposed, of course, that he was to be their guest, but on his arrival there they were rudely shoved aside and Gov. Hadley and a lot of plug-hatted, silk-stockinged republicans took possession of—and wined, dined and automobileed him until the hour for his speech—never giving a farmer an opening to say "Seat" to him. And yet they do it on Mr. Farmer man—along about election time.

Mr. Rivers Declines.

The following letter will be read with sorrow by many friends. We earnestly hope that Mr. Rivers will speedily recover:

To my friends and the public: Some time ago I declared my intention to be a candidate for the democratic nomination for judge of the Twenty-seventh judicial circuit, but on account of protracted illness and failing health, which prevents me from making an active canvass, and fearing that perhaps I might not, in the event of nomination, be able to do my full part in the work for the party that would naturally be due from me, I have decided that I will not be a candidate.

To those friends who have manifested an interest in me, and summoned me to enter the race for this honorable position, I desire to express my sincere appreciation, knowing that they who understand the motive that actuates me in my inaction. Sincerely yours, etc.,

D. L. RIVERS.

Republican Defense at Public Cost

It seems that campaign propaganda at public expense for the exclusive benefit of the party in power is already an unapproved national policy.

Current phases of legislating at Washington, says the Republic, create a strong presumption that the powers with which Mr. Taft's tariff board is to be endowed look to an elaborate defense of the present tariff act rather than investigations on which future and more equitable tariff acts shall be based. The proposed appropriation of a round \$250,000 of the people's money would place dazzling resources at the disposal of the board in carrying out this purpose. With more than a quarter of a million dollars it ought to be possible to attain some success in a specious, ex parte defense for even the Payne-Aldrich measure.

Vast numbers of a pamphlet prepared by the Protective Tariff league are now being sent free through the mails. Matter of this nature is entitled to free circulation only when it has previously been printed in the Congressional Record, but this pamphlet contains matter which has not been so printed.

It is a campaign document pure and simple, but the cost of distributing it at public expense will be added to statements on the second-class deficit and used to enforce the argument for penalizing periodicals.

AND Senator Beveridge of Indiana, one of the pillars of the republican party, just to

show how agreeable the g.o.p. is feeling, got off a few ideas the other day that are worth reading. He said: "The republicans of Indiana are for a protective tariff which covers the difference in the cost of production here and abroad. Less than that is unjust to American laborers—more than that is unjust to American consumers. Injustice is the only foe that protection needs to fear. It was to reduce the Dingley tariff to meet changed conditions and secure justice that we undertook its revision. Every economic policy, every political system, almost every government has been destroyed because of excesses and injustice that crept into it. The way to keep secure a policy, a system or a government that in itself is good, is to administer it with justice and wisdom. The only way to keep a party solid and growing is to keep it right and progressive. McKinley saw this when he declared in his last speech that in tariff matters 'the period of exclusiveness is past.' Senator Moerlil, the father of the war tariff of 1864, saw it when he declared in 1870: 'It is the mistake of the friends of a sound tariff to insist on extreme rates proposed during the war if less will raise the necessary revenue.' Garfield saw it when he said: 'The wisest thing protectionists can do is to unite on a moderate reduction of duties.' The great masses of republican voters understand it today when they refuse to permit the great doctrine of protection to be used to excuse and cloak tariff excess. Use a principle to perpetuate a fraud and the friend of the principle thus misused is more offended than the enemy of the principle itself." All of which THE PRESS accepts as pretty good democratic doctrine—even after considering the source.

REPUBLICAN SERENITY

Under the heading "The Republican Party Crisis and Congress," in its leading editorial one morning last week the Chicago Record-Herald—republican to the core and especially loyal to President Taft—admits that the program of the administration has gone all to pieces. The railroad bill has been dying around and frazzled until Mr. Taft and the capitalists who helped him frame it couldn't recognize it, and, to quote the Record-Herald, "may fail altogether because of general dissatisfaction with its lameness and impotence."

The postal savings bank bill gives no sign of vitality.

The conservation bill arouses little interest in congress.

Nothing, in weeks, has been heard of the statehood bill or the anti-injunction bill.

But the indictment gets stronger when it says:

"Can the republican party face the voters in November with a record of division, a sterility and futile wrangling? Would a do-nothing session, after so much thundering in the index about pledge redemption and clinching progressive policies, reflect credit on either wing or faction of the responsible party?" Is the genius for constructive action dead in the party? A true to charges of "trickery," "villainy," vanity and demagogism. Blunders have been made by both sides, by all sides, perhaps. But they can be retrieved, they must be retrieved if the party and administration are, in November next, to have a leg to stand on, a shadow of an honest claim to the further confidence of the voters."

That's a plain proposition, but the next day the Record-Herald takes Mr. Taft to task and hauls him over the coals. In an editorial entitled, "Mr. Taft's Place Is at the Capital, Not Gallivanting Over the Country," it says:

"Possibly in the particular crisis, after his repeated absences from the city, his presence would have made no difference, but it is hardly to be questioned that his influence would be greater if he was less celebrated as a long-distance president. He can see the people without living on the road, but he can not direct the campaign upon which the success of his administration depends while he is being played as a traveling attraction several hundred miles away."

"And the actual fact is that at the very time when he was paying his tributes to art, music and baseball in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati the Washington correspondents were sending out word that not only his railroad bill but his entire legislative program was in peril. The contrast thus afforded causes irritation as a matter of course. For pleasure jaunt succeeds pleasure jaunt, and battles must be waged while the general is away from the field visiting and attending ball games."

Real Live Washington Gossip

BY C. H. TAVENNER
[Our Washington Correspondent.]
A deficit of nearly \$2,000,000 for the first twenty-two days of April!

A deficit of more than \$18,000,000 so far this fiscal year!
A deficit of \$190,057,887.86 since June 30, 1907!

These are features of Taft's "next-to-the-quickest" economy, about which so much is heard everywhere save in Washington.

Here are more striking illustrations of a republican "business administration":

Marble baths for senators!

Automobiles to carry them 100 rods, from their offices to the capitol!

Touring cars for the president, vice president and "Uncle Joe".

White House receptions which rival the glory of the court of Napoleon, at one of which, according to the Washington Post, "a dazzling ravine of gold blazed before the vision."

Another group of characteristic "next-to-the-quickest" economies includes:

More than \$2,500 for appolloans water for the senators.

Thousands of dollars to keep the senators in vaseline, castor oil, hair tonic, olive oil, bromo quinine, costly perfumes, glycerine, bergamot, nail brushes, clothes brushes, traveling expenses in attending funerals, etc., etc., etc.

Then we come to this item, which stands by itself:

The addition in the last eight years of 99,225 federal officeholders to the payrolls of the republic, at an expense to the people of more than \$70,000,000.

How does this riotous extravagance affect the treasury? is asked. These figures tell us:

Since June 30, 1907, the total balance in the general fund has dropped from \$272,061,445.47 to \$82,003,557.61.

With an average daily deficit eating its way into this remaining \$82,000,000, but a short time

can elapse before the government

will have to sell more bonds to se-

ure more funds to meet more ex-

travagances. Bond issues are ad-

ded to the national debt.

How does all this concern the aver-

age citizen? This is how:

The per capita appropriation by congress jumped from \$6 in 1890 to \$12.40 in 1909. Since the govern-

ment raises the bulk of its revenue

at the custom houses and internal

revenue offices, you, Mr. Reader, are

paying for republican extravagance

in increased prices.

There is no use of your corre-

spondent reporting further on the

proposed investigation of the sugar

underweighing frauds, or the illegal

sale of rich Philippine sugar lands to

the Sugar trust. The trust has

shown itself powerful enough to

prevent a probe by congress. Just

how it was able to protect itself

from an investigation the writer

does not pretend to know. All

that is known is that nine resolu-

tions providing for a probe of this

thieving trust have been introduced

in this congress, and everyone of

them has been chloroformed. The

brother of President Taft was the

attorney for the Sugar trust, and

Attorney General Wickesham was

a former law partner of this brother.

The attorney general says the Sugar

trust should not be investigated, and

the president sustains this view.

April 25, 1910. Vice President

Sherman made a speech at St. Louis

in which he intimated that the new

tariff law was bringing in so much

money that it might possibly be

necessary to revise the Payne-Aldrich

tariff law upward. On that

day, according to the report of the

United States treasurer, the expense

of the government exceeded the re-

ceipts from all sources by \$1,274,

553.23.

"Aldrich is not a candidate for

re-election and is therefore no longer

an issue," is what the republicans

are preparing to say from the stump

in the approaching congressional

elections. But such progressive re-

publicans as Senator La Follette ex-

pect to see Aldrich in the next con-

gress, ready and eager to serve the

big interests, as usual. There is nothing to prevent the Rhode Island boss from changing his mind after the fall elections are over.

The Advance Telephone Company

Commenced the construction of the Lutesville extension Monday morning, and work is also progressing on the Advance-Zalma line.

A number of the business men of the county, believing that a modern telephone system would aid in developing its resources, and believing also that such a system would be a great convenience to the community, as well as fairly profitable

to the owners, acquired a controlling

interest in the Advance Telephone company and franchises were at once secured in the towns of Lutesville and Zalma, and arrangements made to connect them with the Advance long distance line.

Recently this company entered into a contract with the Patton Telephone company by which that company agrees to construct a line, fall metallic circuit, from Patton to

Marble Hill, connecting with our

switchboard thus giving the patrons

of the Advance company exclusive connection with two hundred or more telephones in the northern part of the county.

The Advance company is what is

known as a sub-licensing of the Bell Telephone company, and uses its lines to every town of any importance in southern Missouri and St. Louis; in fact, every point in the United States can be reached.

The Bell, as is well known, is the largest telephone company in the world, and a smaller company, in order to connect with it, must be strictly modern and first-class in every particular.

Possibly the initial attempt at a telephone was the connecting of two or more tin cans by a string or wire, by means of which, it was discovered, sounds were distinctly transmitted short distances, but of course this was not practicable. Later, the telephone was invented, and a number of these could be connected by a single wire, the ground completing the circuit and taking the place of a second wire. This system proved practical, and was used for a time, until what is known as the metallic or two-wire circuit was discovered. It was found that the metallic circuit is as much better than the grounded circuit plan as the grounded is superior to the tin can and string; and all modern telephone companies have done away with or are discarding the old-fashioned grounded line plan and adopting the later metallic line system.

One accustomed to using the old-fashioned system will be very much surprised at the distinctness and far-reaching power of the voice when he first talks over one of the Advance company's phones. Of course it takes twice as much wire for a metallic circuit as the old system requires, but when one has a commodity to sell he can always dispose of it to better advantage if it is the latest and most approved, than if it were inferior or out of date, and especially if the price is the same. Besides, the Advance company is building for the future. Its material is as good as can be bought, as it uses cedar poles and the best wire. Any of its lines afford ample proof that the construction is modern and first class in every particular. Our operators at the different stations are prompt and efficient, and take pleasure in giving good service.

The promoters and owners of this company are in most part home people, and have an interest in developing their county by giving its citizens modern telephone conveniences.

The company offers very reasonable terms to rural corporations for connection, and any member will take pleasure in giving farmers who contemplate the building of lines any advice necessary in purchasing material, construction, etc.

As has been said, a force is now at work building the Lutesville, Zalma and Greenbrier lines, and in a very short time the Marble Hill-Patton line will be completed. The company already has phones at Laf-

lin, Leopold, Dongola and Sturdivant, and, as rapidly as it can be done, will extend the system to every town and village in the county.

To give the public an idea of the magnitude of the Advance company's system, it might be well to say that it owns and operates its own lines into three county seats, Poplar Bluff, Bloomfield and Marble Hill, besides Advance, Puxico, Bell City and about twelve toll stations. It has approximately 150 miles of metallic circuit toll lines, besides the lines used for local service and the systems in the various towns in which it operates. Adv.

Obituary

Lorenzo Dow Hickam was born in Tennessee March 8, 1858, and died May 9, 1910, at his home